Hoellen blasts police spying as 'new type of Watergate'

Mayoral candidate John J. Hoellen has lashed out at alleged Chicago police spying as "a new type of Watergate" that "smacks of the worst of totalitarian practices."

Hoellen, speaking Monday at a press conference, said that reports of police spying represented a disdirected sense of priorities within the department.

Hoellen revealed that he had done spy work in World War II, when he headed the naval intelligence desk in Cincinnati. But he said that such work, directed against a declared wartime enemy, was different from alleged domestic spying by the police force.

THE REPUBLICAN candidate also urged the dismantling of the Chicago public school bureaucracy.

"The school system is fossilized into layer upon layer of bureaucracy," charged Hoellen, speaking in the lobby of Board of Education headquarters, 228 N. LaSalle.

Under Hoellen's plan, the school system would be split into several small community school districts, each with its own superintendent and board of education.

Hoellen said that the school board thereby could cut about $320 million from its $1.08 billion budget and use the saved money for programs more directly beneficial to the children.

Hoellen also said he would appoint outgoing Ald. William S. Singer (43d) to the school board but acknowledged that he had not discussed the move with the defeated Democratic mayoral candidate.

IN ANOTHER development, Hoellen said that Illinois Bell Telephone Co. technicians had determined that no wire bugging devices had been placed in his campaign headquarters.